

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 11, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 12-22 have been withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 have been allowed. Thus, claim 23 is respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-11 are allowed.

Claim 23 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 of Tomari et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,637,572, "Tomari").

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance, the Applicants submit the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the Terminal Disclaimer is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c), and therefore overcomes to overcome the above-noted provisional rejection of claim 23. In addition, the Applicants submit the claim 23 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. The Applicants also submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, allowance of claim 23 (claims 1-11 already being allowed), and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107348-00191.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (1-month)
Terminal Disclaimer